

JOHN MITCHELL

FINE PAINTINGS



Alexandre Calame (1810 - 1864)

Morschach, Lake Lucerne, Switzerland

oil on canvas laid on cardboard

15 x 10 ¼ in. (38.4 x 26.4 cm.)

c. 1861

PROVENANCE:

Zürich, Galerie Koller, 17 November 1994, lot 3064

Asbjørn Lunde (1927-2017), New York.

EXHIBITION:

Alpine Views: Alexandre Calame and the Swiss Landscape, Williamstown, Clark Art Institute, 2006, no. 14, repr. p. 61;

Den ville natur. Sveitisk og norsk romantikk. Malerier fra Asbjørn Lundes samling, New York, Tromsø, Nordnorsk Kunstmuseum and Bergen Billedgalleri, 2007-8, no.16, repr. p. 86;

Forests, Rocks, Torrents: Norwegian and Swiss Landscapes from the Lunde Collection, London, National Gallery, 2011, no. 38, repr. p. 68

This enthralling oil sketch, formerly in the Asbjørn Lunde Collection in New York, was once thought to be painted in Seelisberg, but it has now been identified as a view seen from the opposite side of the lake above Morschach. Apart from a road which now runs beside the lake towards the famous Telskapelle, this scene has changed remarkably little since Calame's time. Together with Seelisberg and Isenfluh above the Lauterbrunnen Valley, these were hallowed places for the artist and are justifiably some of the most beautiful spots in Switzerland. To have accessed this lofty viewpoint, Calame had to get very close to the edge of the cliffs. There is nothing between the birch sapling on the left of where Calame positioned his easel and the lake below.